

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/241,188

Examiner

James H. Zurita

Applicant(s)

BLANDINA ET AL.

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/21/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 36-48.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but prior to a decision on the appeal. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5 January 2007 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

On 5 January 2007, applicant amended claim 36. Claims 36-48, a total of 13 claims, are pending and are allowed.

An updated search was done on the amended claims.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest domestic Prior Art is the combination of Schein and Owens.

Schein does not disclose the unique related processes performed by class objects. Specifically, Schein does not disclose "stored value products ... second subsection containing a high-level secondary class of objects and a second plurality of secondary classes of objects derived from said high-level secondary class of objects, wherein each of said second plurality of secondary classes of

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objects define one of said plurality of stored value products; and, Wherein said second plurality of secondary classes of objects inherit attributes from said high-level key class of objects". On the other hand, Owens discusses an object-oriented paradigm, but does not disclose of a one-to-one relationship between objects and specific products. While Owens incorporates class objects in order to model table structures and data outside of the database, there is no disclosure as to the specific relationship between the various class objects in order to maintain stored value products and business units.

The closest foreign Prior Art is EP 667586 A2, published 16 August 1995, Database generator. However, there is no discussion of "...stored value products ... second subsection containing a high-level secondary class of objects and a second plurality of secondary classes of objects derived from said high-level secondary class of objects, wherein each of said second plurality of secondary classes of objects define one of said plurality of stored value products; and, Wherein said second plurality of secondary classes of objects inherit attributes from said high-level key class of objects".

The closest non-patent literature Prior Art is Deborah Radcliff, "*Universal servers: Does on size fit all?*" Software Magazine. Englewood: May 1997. Vol.17, Iss. 5; pg. 36, 7 pages, downloaded from ProQuest on the Internet on 18 January 2007. Radcliff discloses development of a cash-card application using the DB2 image extenders to house and manipulate photo ID debit cards for college students and link those IDs to digitized cash credited to them. Both the digitized cash and the accompanying student photo can be accessed from any terminal

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location throughout a participating campus. Again, there is no discussion of "...stored value products ... second subsection containing a high-level secondary class of objects and a second plurality of secondary classes of objects derived from said high-level secondary class of objects, wherein each of said second plurality of secondary classes of objects define one of said plurality of stored value products; and, Wherein said second plurality of secondary classes of objects inherit attributes from said high-level key class of objects".

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James H. Zurita whose telephone number is 571-272-6766. The examiner can normally be reached on 8a-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

James Zurita
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3625
18 January 2007

James Zurita
Patent Examiner